

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



62.21 1889

Indexed





THE IDAHO.

FROM NATURE. WEIGHT 16 OZ'S.

See Rept. of Pom. 1888 - Plate III

THE
IDAHO PEAR.

IDAHO PEAR CO.,

LEWISTON, IDAHO,

U. S. A.

1889.

FROM THE OWNERS OF THE ORIGINAL IDAHO PEAR SEEDLING.

To Whom it May Concern:

We take pleasure in stating, in regard to the Idaho Pear, that we purchased the orchard in which the tree originated, and where it now stands, in the fall of 1876. The tree has borne every year since, and we are informed by Mr. Mullkey, the original proprietor, that it had never failed in fruiting yearly. With us the Idaho has proven the most vigorous grower. The contrast in our orchard at this time between the Idaho and the many other varieties is most marked ; the prevailing hot dry winds of the present summer have had a very injurious effect on the foliage of the other varieties of pears. On the Bartlett, growing but a few feet from the Idaho, the leaves look as though they had been seared by frost and the tree has made but little growth, while the dark green foliage of the Idaho does not show the least effect from the heat and the tree has made a fine growth. It is a prolific bearer and the fruit is of the finest quality ; we esteem it the most valuable pear in our orchard as a market pear, for canning or dessert.

We have no interest in the sale of the Idaho Pear stock, but wish the Idaho Pear Co. unbounded success in introducing this most valuable pear.

Signed,

LINDSAY & LUNN.

Lewiston, Idaho, August 25th, 1888.

SPECIAL.

Attention is called to the matter on pages 14, 17 and 19, as to the size and weight of the pears sent to New Jersey, and to the description of Prof. H. E. Van Deman, Pomologist of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and Dr. Hexamer, Chairman of Committee on Native Fruits, for the very accurate descriptions of this fruit.

HOME OF THE IDAHO PEAR.



HAVING had many inquiries as to the climate, soil and surroundings of the place where the Idaho Pear originated, we thought the many friends of the Idaho would appreciate the sketch we give, on last page of cover, of the residence of J. N. Lindsay, Esq., one mile east of Lewiston, Idaho, and the home of the Idaho Pear.

A quarter of a century ago, the place where now stands the house and orchard was a sandy plain, covered with the primitive sage brush and bunch grass. It was here that Mr. and Mrs. Mullkey began the planting of the first orchard in Idaho Territory. A little stream of water was diverted from its course, which, united with untiring industry, soon converted the almost barren plain into a veritable Garden of Eden.

Many have been the exclamations of surprise and wonder from admiring visitors who have beheld the trees in this orchard bending under their burden of luscious fruit, consisting of apples, pears, plums, prunes, cherries, peaches, apricots and nectarines. We take pleasure in paying this tribute of respect to one of nature's noblewomen, in stating that this beautiful orchard, with its pleasant surroundings, is largely the result of the care and foresight of Mrs. Mullkey. Seeds of the various kinds of fruit were planted, and afterward budded or grafted; much of this was done by Mrs. Mullkey, not from necessity, but from a natural love of horticulture. Having lived on the frontier all her life, she had never enjoyed the opportunity of acquiring an advanced education, and not understanding the intricacies of cross-fertilization, to which Pomologists resort for the purpose of producing new varieties of fruit, her efforts in that line were those of the more primitive plan of selecting seeds from the best specimens. These efforts were certainly well rewarded, not only in originating the Idaho Pear, for in the orchard which stands so largely as a monument of her care and industry, are found several varieties of seedling apples, far better in quality than scores of varieties that burden the long lists in the catalogues.

The rows of tall poplars around the house and orchard form an admirable wind-break. There is probably no place in the world where the Lombardy Poplar flourishes better than at Lewiston.

On the knoll near the barn is shown a group of Nez-Perce Indians. These children of nature have a love for nature's finest fruits, and often call at the orchard in passing from Lewiston back and forth to their reservation.

Could our readers in the far east for the first time behold the motley group which our artist could only indistinctly portray, they would be struck with surprise, if not with admiration. These Indians are regarded as quite advanced in civilization, and, it must be admitted, they combine the styles of fashionable and savage life in a degree that is often amusing.

On the Clearwater River is shown a steamboat, descending with a cargo of wheat. Passengers, for the first time in coming up the river, often express disgust for the country ; they look at the rugged hills, rising to a height of two thousand feet above, and wonder where there is any farming country, and probably give little credit to the statement when told that on and beyond the summit of those hills, extending a hundred miles northward, is found the finest wheat growing region in the world, which is fast being checkered with railroads and dotted over with thriving towns and villages, while the mountains are yielding up their hidden treasures of silver and gold.

THE IDAHO PEAR.

During the past three years, at which time public attention was first called to the Idaho Pear, there has undoubtedly been no fruit in the world that has created so much interest among fruit-growers. Descriptions and illustrations of the fruit have appeared in numberless papers ; its fame has spread in ever widening circles overlapping the ocean. France and Germany join in the many commendations of praise, while months ago came an order for trees from the Department of Agriculture of Russia and the Botanical Gardens of the Emperor at St. Petersburg.

In consideration of the high character of the testimonials received as to the quality of the Idaho Pear, we deem we do not owe any apology for adding another name to the list of good fruits. We believe that however good the quality of those we possess, there is still better beyond, and that the Idaho is only a link in the chain that connects the past with the future.

Among the hundreds of letters we have received making inquiries in regard to the Idaho, such questions as these are most frequently asked : Is it blight proof ? How much cold will it stand ? How much heat will it endure ?

To the first of these inquiries we can only answer : We have no blight here.

To the other inquiries we can give a more definite answer. We will therefore briefly narrate some of the vicissitudes of climate through which the Idaho has passed in the land of its nativity, from which some opinion may be formed as to its probable hardiness in other States.

Lewiston is situated at the confluence of the Clearwater River with Snake River in latitude $46^{\circ} 28'$ N., being on a parallel with the northern part of Wisconsin, Michigan and Maine, which it will be observed is beyond the limits of successful pear culture in the United States. Although situated in such high latitude, the climate in winter is usually mild, the isothermal line passing through Lewiston, striking the Atlantic coast somewhere near Norfolk, Virginia. The mildness of the winter climate is caused by the Nikuro Siwa, locally known as the Chinook winds, a Japan current which on Puget Sound so modifies the winter climate that points much further north than Lewiston have scarcely any winter, and greatly ameliorates the climate at this distance inland. But every few years there comes a winter when the Chinook wind ceases to prevail for a time, and a cold wave sweeps from the north and converts our Italian winter to one of Arctic severity.

The winter of 1874-5 was the coldest known since the Idaho Pear came into existence; the mercury dropped to 30° below zero, which point it reached for some thirty consecutive nights. Again during January, 1888, the mercury reached 25° below zero, without injury to the Idaho Pear trees, not even the fruit buds, while most other varieties of pear trees only bore a partial crop that season.

In summer, the extreme of our Idaho climate is to drought and not to rain. However as the usual snowfall on the surrounding chains of mountains is very heavy in winter, our atmosphere in summer is to a great degree tempered by the melting of the snows in the mountains.

But during last winter the snowfall on the mountains was abnormally light, so that in places where there should have been twenty feet of snow on the first of May there was but a foot or two, and the effect of this was most disastrous to the country. The extremes of heat were rather below the normal (101° being the highest recorded), while the average yearly maximums range from 100° to 106° Fahr. as recorded in the Reports of the Chief Signal Officer of the U. S.; yet there was such an absolute lack of moisture in the air that the wind seemed as though it was the breath of a furnace. Fields of grain that gave promise of 40 to 50 bushels to the acre were in a few days as dry as stubble fields, and the leaves on many trees were seared as though scorched by fire.

Through these extremes of heat and cold the Idaho Pear has passed unscathed. During the past summer we had a block of those trees on dry hill land that has never been irrigated, and they made a growth of 4 to 5 feet from the dormant bud,

notwithstanding the hot dry winds, while the leaves on the hardy Catalpa and Ash on an adjoining plot were so badly affected that in July they had the appearance of having been seared by October frosts. This may appear more remarkable when it is taken in consideration that the rainfall for 1888 was less than 11 inches, and less than 7 inches since January, 1889, to date.

We would not have our readers infer that we live in an Arctic region in winter and a Lybian desert in summer. We have only referred to the great extremes that have visited the country, the one of the summer just past the worst that has ever been known.

From the vicissitudes through which the Idaho Pear has passed, we think we may safely predict that it will succeed far up on the Northern limit of successful pear culture; nor will it disappoint its friends on the great Southwestern plains, where like here it may be occasionally subjected to hot dry winds, while in the great regions of our country where, favored by a more humid atmosphere and genial warmth, it will be found to respond to the more favoring conditions in a wonderful degree.

ORIGIN.

The parentage of the Idaho Pear is wrapped in obscurity. Further on we give all that could be obtained of its early history. Experts are divided in their opinion as to whether it belongs to the Oriental class of pears or is a cross between those of European origin. Special attention is called to the opinion of Prof. J. L. Budd.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE IDAHO PEAR.

The query may arise in the minds of some, if the Idaho Pear is one of such fine quality, why was it not introduced to the public long ago? This may be briefly explained by the fact that Lewiston was long an isolated frontier town, without any local nurseryman, and none from abroad ever chanced to see the fruit. A few admiring friends had long appreciated the fine qualities of the pear, and the few specimens that might be for disposal each year, found ready purchasers, so that in the place where it originated few persons had any knowledge of the pear.

Perhaps a brief narration of the circumstances which first directed public attention to the pear will be interesting to our readers, and to some extent necessary to fully understand some of the testimonials that follow.

During the fall of 1886, Mr. C. T. Stranahan and J. H. Evans, about the same time and each without any knowledge of what the other had done, sent specimens of the pear East, Mr. Stranahan sending to the *American Agriculturist* and the *Farm and Garden*; Mr. Evans to the *Rural New Yorker*. Mr Carman, the editor, being absent from the city when the pear was received, it was somewhat damaged by being over ripe when tested. Notwithstanding Mr. Carman was struck with it at first sight, and wrote immediately, requesting a better specimen for illustration in the *Rural New*

Yorker. The season of the year being past, only a small pear or two were to be found on the tree that had been left as not worth gathering, these were immediately forwarded, and from one of these was made the first illustration of the Idaho Pear. The specimen shown in the engraving was very much flattened, and there were probably few persons who, without any knowledge of the fact would have guessed the uncouth looking figure to represent a pear. The novel appearance of the pear, and more especially the high encomium of praise awarded it by Mr. Carman, elicited immediate public attention, and the day following the receipt of the *Rural New Yorker*, letters were received making enquiries in regard to the pear, and requesting cions for testing, nor has there been any cessation of public interest during the past three years, as attested by the hundreds of letters that have been received. A few admiring friends of the Idaho Pear, believing from the warm words of welcome that had been awarded the first few specimens that had been sent abroad, that lovers of good fruit everywhere would appreciate this most excellent pear, resolved upon making a systematic distribution of the stock and hence the Idaho Pear Co.

At the time the first specimens of the fruit were sent abroad the Idaho had been variously designated among the few who had any knowledge of it as the Mullkey or Lindsay Seedling pear. Upon receipt of the letter from Mr. Carman requesting a second specimen and containing such a high commendation of praise, Mr. Evans concluded its good qualities were as likely to be appreciated abroad as at home and that it was entitled to a more characteristic name, that its distinct and rugged form were indicative of the land of its birth and that it could go forth under no more suggestive name than that of its native place—IDAHO—The Gem of the Mountains.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The following authentic history of the Idaho Pear was obtained from Mr. and Mrs. Mullkey, and first appeared in the *Rural New Yorker* of Nov. 27, 1886:

About 18 or 19 years ago four seeds were saved from a fine, large, oblong pear resembling the Bartlett. All were planted but only one germinated, making a growth of about two feet the first year. It grew so thriflily, with such fine foliage, that it was resolved not to bud it. Next spring it was transplanted, and four years from the seed bore some fine fruit and has continued bearing ever since. It is about a month later and keeps better than the Bartlett, and is thought by all who know both to be fully its equal in all other respects. When received here, the fruit was in color a bright golden yellow with a red cheek covered with dots a little darker in hue. Others were more oblong but all were about as large at the apex or stem end as the base or calyx end. There is no pear of this shape that we know of. It more nearly resembles an oblong apple in shape than any pear. It is a most remarkable, beautiful distinct pear, which must have a future. It has never been our fortune to have a new fruit sent to us which strikes us so favorably as this.

The good opinion of the editor as expressed above was not in any way lessened by the specimens received the year following as the following extract will show, taken from the *Rural New Yorker* of Oct. 29, 1887:

The Idaho Pear again. Though this pear will not be offered for sale until next year, we are glad of an opportunity to present a portrait which shows its characteristic shape far better than that which appeared in these columns Nov. 27 of last year, then for the first brought to the notice of the public. It is altogether a remarkable pear, and we now emphatically repeat what was then said, that it must have a future wherever it will thrive as it does in the place of its nativity. There is no other pear known to us that is more distinct in its shape, no other that is seedless. The flesh is nearly white and exceedingly fine grained, very tender and buttery, with a rich, subdued acid flavor. It is not so sweet as the Bartlett, but higher flavored—more vinous. Even when dead-ripe it makes no approach to insipidity. It is a month later than the Bartlett, and is a decidedly better keeper so far as we can judge. The pear now shown at Fig. 444, with cross-section at 445, was received at this office Oct. 8, having been picked Sept. 24.

As reference was made above and will appear in other testimonials in regard to the pear being seedless, it will be proper to state that all specimens are not seedless, but so much so as to be characteristic of the pear, and what may seem more strange to many of our readers, many of the specimens have not the least indication of a core.

THE IDAHO PEAR.

IOWA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE,

AMES, IOWA, 1887.

Dear Sir:—The pear was equal in size, weight and quality to Duchesse d'Angouleme. If it proves harder and nearer blight proof than that variety, it will prove a treasure in the West. Can you send three of the fully matured leaves for examination?

Yours,

J. L. BUDD.

AMES, IOWA, Oct. 3, 1888.

Many thanks for the delicious specimen of Idaho. It came in perfect order and in perfect condition for testing. It is truly hard to equal, even when compared with pears of smaller size. We have it started but has not yet been exposed to our winters. I have studied the leaves this summer and am more certain than ever that it has the blood of the Chinese Sand Pear in it. If it does not stand here, it will prove valuable over great areas of our great nation. Our Idaho Pear trees we have found harder and more perfect in leaf than the Flemish Beauty.

Yours,

J. L. BUDD.

The following is an extract from a communication from the pen of Prof. J. L. Budd, of the Iowa Agricultural College, which was published in the *American Garden*:

On my return from a three months' study of the fruit trees, ornamental trees and shrubs of the Pacific Coast, from San Bernardino and Riverside on the South, to the upper Russian River Valley on the North, I notice in the *American Garden* and other Eastern and Southern journals the most favorable notes on the size and quality of the fruit of the Idaho Pear. In the December number you say: 'The flavor is delicious, sub-acid and spicy. Compared with Kieffer, which is evidently of similar origin, namely, Chinese, it is far superior in quality.' Again you say: 'Its flavor suggests that it was a cross with, or a seedling of, some Chinese variety.'

I pick up my pencil now to say that, after carefully testing the fine samples sent me by Mr. Evans, I came to your conclusion as to its parentage, and at once sent for specimens of its leaves. After critical inspection of the cell structure, venation and very peculiar serration of the leaves of the Idaho, I wrote in our experimental ledger: 'I find the leaves of the Idaho to be thick, firm and leathery, and to show the peculiar venation and serration of the Chinese Snow pears. So far as I know, no race of pears of the world, except the Snow pears, shows the peculiar hairy serrations of leaf of the Idaho, with each sharp point incurved and hardened.' I might also add, that in Russian River, in Northern California, I was told that Father Shepherd, one of the early missionaries of West Idaho and Eastern Oregon and Washington Territory, distributed seeds of the apples, pears and plums of Northwest China, and I think that Mr. Evans has referred to this missionary work of Father Shepherd. To those who may urge that no Chinese pear has the texture of flesh and quality of the Idaho, I would say that, so far as I know, the Snow pears of Northwest China have not as yet been fruited east of the Rocky Mountains. All I have seen of the so called Snow pears, are clearly of the Sand pear race of Eastern and South China and Japan.

From the Farm and Garden of Dec., 1887:

We received a specimen of this new, and in many respects unique pear, from C. Stranahan, Lewiston, Idaho, in October, 1886, and made a cut of it for the *Farm and Garden*. Learning that there were no trees for sale, we delayed speaking of it. Mr. Stranahan of the Idaho Pear Co., writes that the pear is soon to be placed in the market, so we give it a place and description in our columns. (The origin of the pear as here stated being substantially the same as we have already given, is omitted.) We give in the cut a perfect outline of the pear received by us, and would say, that properly handled its quality is excellent, fine grained, juicy, of agreeable flavor, and a very desirable acquisition in the list of pears. We have the pear in trial and are much pleased with it, and think from the very free manner the company have sent out specimens for testing that they must have faith in its merits. We deem the pear a valuable acquisition. The climate of Lewiston, the place of its origin, is not as severe as its latitude would indicate, and its elevation, 680 feet, is not sufficient to make the climate extraordinarily severe, and we think it would be safe to class it, from what we see, harder than the Bartlett. We shall, as fast as we learn more of it, give a more extended notice.

From Oakland Enterprise, Oct. 7, 1887.

Oakland, Oregon, is situated in the southern part of the state, and since the completion of the Oregon and California Railroad, that part of the state is attracting great attention as one of the leading fruit growing regions in the United States.

On Monday the Hon. Feudel Sutherlin came into our sanctum with a very large, handsome pear of delicious flavor, which he says was sent to him from Lewiston, Idaho, where it originated. This pear comes in or ripens directly after the Bartlett, hence it is destined to fill an important place in the pear market, being larger than the Bartlett, and if possible, more delicious.

THE IDAHO PEAR.

9

From the Cultivator and Country Gentleman of Albany, N. Y., Nov. 17, 1887:

A correspondent asks for information as to the character of this new fruit, which has been noticed in some of the horticultural journals. In answer we can state that all our personal knowledge of it is derived from a single specimen sent us from Idaho by the Idaho Pear Co., and received in good condition about the first of October. We are informed that it originated in that region about twenty years ago. The specimen sent weighed a little less than a pound, but we are informed that some have weighed from 19 to 23 ounces. Externally it has at first glance little of the common appearance of a pear, but more nearly resembles externally a large and handsome apple, the stalks being deeply set on the full, rounded base, and with none of the neck of the pear. Its flavor, however, is that of an excellent pear, with fine grained, buttery and melting flesh. (We omit description, being substantially same as heretofore given.) The real value of a fruit cannot be determined from single detached specimens in one season and from a single locality; but this pear is certainly worthy of at least an extensive trial and in other places. It may be too large and not sufficiently attractive in appearance to prove most successful as a market sort.

Many who have received second specimens of the pear have been more highly pleased with its good qualities than with the first sample. Mr. J. J. Thomas, the editor of the horticultural department of the *Country Gentleman*, not being an exception to the rule. In response to a specimen of an Idaho Pear received in October of 1888, he writes: "The pear was in perfect condition. It struck me as being more excellent in quality than the one sent last year."

From Orchard and Garden for Dec., 1887:

The specimen of a new pear, the "Idaho," life size illustration of which is herewith presented, was forwarded to us by mail from the Idaho Pear Co., Lewiston, Idaho. It arrived in good condition and we pronounce it a most remarkable fruit. Color greenish-yellow; size largest, as large as the largest Kieffer; form roundish or obovate; aroma distinct and pleasant; flavor pleasant, perhaps higher even than Bartlett, and quite vinous; flesh entirely free from gritty texture; core exceedingly small and without seeds. Larger than Bartlett and apparently a good keeper. From the whole appearance of the fruit, the peculiar, distinct aroma resembling that of the Kieffer, and from the description of the habits of the tree, we were at first led to believe the Idaho to be a descendant of the Chinese Sand pears. There is nothing in its history to confirm or contradict this supposition. At any rate, as grown in Idaho its quality places it head and shoulders above any of that type, and among the very best variety of pears.

From the Oregonian, published at Portland, Oregon, the leading North Pacific Coast paper, Nov. 2, 1888:

About a year ago or a little later parties in Lewiston sent down a specimen pear of a seedling that originated at that place twenty years ago, from seed planted by Mrs. Mullkey, who went there from this valley. Specimens had been sent east and exhibited, and had received warm and favorable notices from leading agricultural journals. This week a few specimens have been received at the *Oregonian* office and tested, and submitted to our most experienced fruit dealers, who agree that it is a fine fruit and comes at a time to be appreciated. It is a rich yellow of good size, and even large as an average and shaped like a quince. Its flavor is very rich, and its texture and general traits induce the belief that it will be firm enough to ship to the best advantage. A company was organized to push this pear into general notice and cultivation, and appearances now warrant the belief it is worthy of the effort.

The first specimen of the Idaho Pear sent to the editor of *Popular Gardening and Fruit Growing* in the fall of 1887, having failed to reach its destination, a second one was sent, which had been picked from the tree about the 15th of September, and kept in an ordinary cellar without resorting to any artificial means of preservation, and having been received in New York as late as the 14th day of November, as the editor remarks, sufficiently testifies to its keeping qualities. The fruit is large to very large, of the form shown in our engraving, and presents the singular character of being seedless. The flesh is tender, nearly white, vinous, with a flavor, if not so sweet as the Bartlett, it is at least rich and agreeable. No effort has yet been made to boom this pear, as there will be no trees for sale for another year or two. The large size, peculiar shape and fine qualities seem to be making it popular at first sight.—January Number, 1888, of *Popular Gardening*.

The Arkansas Farmer and Stockman, in its number of October 23, 1888, has the following:

We received last week a specimen of the Idaho Pear, sent us by J. H. Evans. It is certainly a very choice variety, large, round, creamy, lemon yellow, flesh firm, smooth and melting, and quality excellent. In form it is more like an apple than any pear we ever saw. It is a new variety, and we predict that it will soon become very popular.

The *Southern Agriculturist*, of Oct. 11, '88, says :

Some days since we received from the Idaho Pear Co., Lewiston, Idaho, a remarkable pear called the Idaho Pear. It has the shape of an apple more than a pear, its color is very much like that of a lemon and its flavor is said to be delicious. We have not eaten it, because we thought of keeping it to exhibit at the Alabama State Fair.

After eating it the editor writes us the following : The Idaho Pear you sent me was certainly a very superior pear. Its flavor was excellent, and it was tested by a number of pear eaters who all united in pronouncing it first class.

THOS. J. KEY, Editor *Agriculturist*.

The following is an extract from an article that appeared in the *Washington Farmer*, of October 19th, 1888 :

The Idaho Pear is now rated superior to the Kieffer, the Bartlett or any other. However strangely it may sound, it has no neck, and is not bell shaped, but is as round as an apple, or obovate, and has folds of crimping around the eye, like a quince.

The tree is quite similar to the Bartlett and the fruit ripens one month later than the Bartlett. The skin is a rich yellow russet with a red cheek. The flesh is nearly white and exceedingly fine grained and buttery, very tender, with a rich, acid flavor. In aroma it is similar to the Kieffer, and at first it was thought to belong to the Chinese Sand Pear variety, but it is now decided to be distinct and superior. The original tree commenced to bear at four years from seed, and has borne a good crop for sixteen years. The fruit is almost entirely seedless, there being usually but one or two seeds, and often none. It ripens in September, weighs from 12 to 23 ounces, and is an excellent keeper and shipper.

The Snake River, from Boise to where the stream empties into the Columbia (near the mouth of the Yakima, has long been famous for its choice fruits, possessing there higher excellence than almost anywhere else on the continent, and now the very centre of that fruit belt has originated the *choicest pear in the world*.

Last October's number of the *Fruit and Grape Grower*, published at Charlottesville, Va., says :

We call the special attention of our readers to the history and picture of this remarkable pear. A specimen was sent us from Lewiston, Idaho, by the Idaho Pear Co., by mail. It was ripe when it reached us and we kept it two weeks in a small room in our office, well ventilated, without fire, and it was as sound as when first received. It was of a rich, golden yellow color, weighed seven ounces, had no neck like other pears, and the base was very much of the shape of a quince ; it filled the room with a most delicious aroma ; it had no core, the flesh was very fine and perfectly smooth and sound down to its very small seed bag, was rich and juicy, very tender, and melted in the mouth with a delightful, sub-acid flavor. This pear bids fair to be a great favorite and to have a great run, if it succeeds as well elsewhere as at home. They grow all the way up to 23 ounces in weight, as we are informed.

The *Western Horticulturist*, of Sept., 1887, says :

The specimen was received in good condition, and after waiting for it a few days to ripen, we, with our wife and six children, tested it, and all declared it the best pear they ever ate. It was delicious, simply melting in the mouth, quite juicy and sweet, no hard core, or coarse, stringy parts, as is common with the large California pears. This one weighed 15 ounces, and it being an average one, reader, please help us to imagine what a large one would be like.

The *American Agriculturist*, December, 1888, says :

Rarely have we watched the introduction of a new fruit with so much interest as that of the Idaho Pear. The first specimen we have seen was received in 1886, under the name of the Mullkey Pear, which has since been changed to Idaho. Its size, general appearance and flavor reminded us somewhat of the crosses of the Chinese Sand Pear, but its excellent eating quality was far above that of any of this class known in cultivation. A second specimen was received the following year, and another, from which our engraving was drawn, the latter part of last September. All of these were very large and handsome, irregular globular, somewhat depressed. The cavity of the fruit is very irregular ; basin, shallow and placid ; calyx, very small and closed ; core, very small ; skin, golden yellow, with many russet dots ; flesh, melting, juicy, with a sprightly, vinous, delicious flavor ; season, September and October. As the Idaho has not been grown as yet outside of its native locality, its adaptability to general cultivation can of course only be surmised, but of what we can hear of the history and general habit of the tree, we venture the opinion that when once introduced it will soon become one of the most valuable varieties of pears over a large extent of our country. Last winter, we are informed, it resisted, without injury, for two weeks, a temperature ranging from five to twenty-nine below zero, and that without any protection whatever, not even that of a flake of snow upon the ground.

Extract from an article published by the *Pacific Rural Press*, October 20th, 1888.

We give herewith an engraving of the Idaho Pear, a Pacific Coast seedling, which has already secured a wide reputation among the fruit experts of the east, through specimens of the fruit sent to them last year for examination. The new variety impressed itself so favorably upon the people of Lewiston, Idaho, by its characteristic form, size and quality, and by its hardiness in enduring the severe winter of Idaho, and its freedom from blights, that a company known as the Idaho Pear Co., was formed for its propagation.

We have had the opportunity of examining specimens of the Idaho Pear of the last two years crops and can recommend it for size, beauty and quality, and hope it will be widely tried in this state.

The following is an extract from an article that appeared in the *American Garden*, December, 1887:

Among our numerous varieties of pears there are so few really desirable, excepting under favoring conditions, that growers and consumers alike will rejoice at the introduction of one promising so well as the "Idaho." The shape is shown in the illustration; the color, when ripe, is a brilliant yellow, dotted with russet; the core is exceedingly small, while the thick, creamy-white flesh is juicy, tender and yet firm, and the whole, with a delightful, aromatic fragrance, somewhat suggestive of the quince. Altogether it is a distinct appearing and handsome fruit, the flavor is delicious, sub-acid and spicy. Compared with Kieffer, which is evidently of similar origin, namely Chinese, it is far superior in quality to that variety. Its season is about one month after the Bartlett, and taking the few specimens sent east this season as a criterion, it is free from decay at the core and a first class shipping variety. We should add that the seeds are insignificant and by some it is called seedless, and the flesh has a smoothness and entire freedom from granulations. If it prove blight-proof it will be a treasure.

The *Fruit Growers' Journal*, published at Cobden, Ill., in its issue of Nov. 1, 1888, says:

The Idaho Pear, shown on the first page, originated in Idaho, at a point about on a parallel with Quebec. It is a seedling from some unknown variety, and whatever its chance parentage may be, it has been honored by its offspring. About four weeks ago we received by mail a specimen weighing a trifle less than a pound. It was in fine eating condition when received, and to our taste was the most delicious of any pear we have ever tasted, Seckle and Bartlett not excepted. It is about a month later than the Bartlett, and we shall be disappointed if it does not prove to be at the North what the Le Conte is at the South, the leading pear. What its adaptability to southern growth may be we have not heard, probably it has not been tested South as yet. Our readers will hear more about the Idaho Pear at some future time.

The *Delaware Farm and Home* of Nov. 9, 1888, says:

The Idaho Pear has been noticed several times in these columns and always favorably. We are now able to present to our readers a cut of this fruit and add our testimony to that already given as to its superior quality. For we have received from the Idaho Pear Co., of Lewiston, Idaho, a fine specimen, not so large as the one figured, but ripe and in good condition for eating. The pear is nearer the Kieffer in shape than any other, and yet is quite unlike the Kieffer. In quality it is very good, better than the Bartlett. Juicy, tender, rich, fine grained, melting, buttery; the flavor is spicy, sub-acid and delicious; flesh white, core exceedingly small. In external appearance it is beautiful, of a bright yellow color with minute dots of russet. In appearance it resembles an apple rather than a pear, being oblong in shape, the stalks being somewhat deeply set on a well rounded base. It is a month later than Bartlett and a better keeper.

The *Colorado Farmer* of October 11, 1888, after publishing a cut of the pear and extracts from other papers, adds the following:

We gladly add our testimonial to the above. Had we seen the pear, so different from the ordinary pear shape and so large, hanging on a tree, we should not have been expecting a treat; but when we opened the can, although it had come by mail and had received hard usage by the way, the delightful aroma prepared us for the feast which followed. This pear is destined to play quite a part among our fruits and we cordially recommend it to our readers.

The *Field and Farm*, published at Denver, Col., in its issue of October 13th, 1888:

We have received from the Idaho Pear Co., of Lewiston, Idaho, very fine specimens of the Idaho Pear illustrated herewith. This pear is large, nearly globular, obtusely ribbed, light rich yellow, the surface covered with numerous small dots; * * * flesh fine grained, buttery and melting, with a "very good" flavor. * * * Compared with Kieffer it is far superior in quality, and is a better kind to grow in high altitudes, from the fact that it was propagated in the mountains and is therefore well adapted to such a climate.

THE IDAHO PEAR.

The *Chronicle and Cultivator Journal*, from Kansas City, Mo., in its issue of Nov. 2, '88, says:

We take pleasure in to-day giving our readers an illustration of what is known in "fruit-land" as the Idaho Pear. The engraving was made from a pen drawing of one of the pears sent us through the kindness of the Idaho Pear Co., of Lewiston, Idaho, and while of course it cannot convey to the reader the richness of the fruit it will enable him to gain at least some idea of its enormous size and fine proportions. This is a comparatively new candidate, yet it is being tested in several states, Missouri being among the number, with every promise of success. It is free from seeds, large in size, juicy and sweet, and has a very small core; it is not so sweet as the Bartlett, but we think more highly flavored. This pear undoubtedly has a future, as we have never received a sample of any fruit that has struck us as favorably as this, and we can't but urge upon our readers to give this pear a thorough test and are confident they will be gratified at the result.

OPINIONS OF POMOLOGISTS, NURSERYMEN AND EMINENT HORTICULTURISTS.

From W. S. Waring, Tyrone, Pa., correspondent of *Rural New Yorker* and a veteran pomologist. From *Rural New Yorker*, Oct. 29, 1887:

The specimen of Idaho Pear sent from Lewiston, on Snake river, Idaho, on Sept. 20, was received here on Sept. 27 in good condition, but still green at the base. This had disappeared by Oct. 3, when the fruit was cut, and as it weighed 13 ounces there was a taste apiece for quite a row of connoisseurs. The quality, which is the main thing, was rated high by all, some placing it superior to the Bartlett, while others thought it equal. The very fine buttery texture of the entire flesh pleased all highly. As to the form, size, color and manner of growth, it is exceptional. As the outline shows it resembles a big apple more than a pear, and yet at the second glance the surprised spectator cries out, "Why, that's a pear!" Its clear, fine toned, even yellow color, and something about the cut of the calyx and the stem tell what it is. There are folds of crimping round the eye, unusual in pears. The measure of circumference was $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches round its "equator" and $11\frac{1}{4}$ over the "poles."

Grafts received last spring for test of the behavior of the variety here, grew well on seven different sorts of stocks, including the Mikado and the Chinese Sand pears, yet they were quite shriveled when received; but 24 hours of soaking in water restored their plumpness and bright, warm looking color, and oiled paper caps retained it until they could receive supply enough from the wood they were set on. The growth is of good medium strength, erect, and seems well ripened. Fruit spurs have formed in several cases together with good wood growth, showing a healthy tendency to early bearing. It is certainly a fruit of distinctive qualities and of great promise; and its origin in so far off and new a territory that it is something remarkable.

E. M. Hudson, Esq., of New Orleans, who is testing the pear, writing under date of Aug. 7, 1889, says: The cions you last sent me were grafted on young Le Conte, rooted cuttings; have taken, but owing to the long (3 mos.) drought broken only June 27, they have not grown so well, having made a growth of 12 to 18 inches of wood, but with plenty of rain are starting off to grow afresh and I hope will do well by fall. I am so anxious to get a hardy, prolific, early pear of *really fine* quality for this southern belt that I have taken more interest in the Idaho Pear than you may imagine.

From what my friend, Mr. Berkmans, has written me personally of its quality, I think it more than probable that the Idaho Pear is the one we want.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1887.

Dear Sirs :—Yours of the 6th came duly to hand, also the pear, in excellent condition, for which I am much obliged.

It is large, over 11 inches in circumference, and weighs 12 ounces. Form, nearly round, this specimen particularly, skin yellow, flesh melting, juicy, slightly vinous, rich quality, best. The round form in pears is not so desirable as the pyriform, but this is undoubtedly a valuable fruit, considering its size, quality and season. When I first saw it I thought it resembled very closely the Easter Beurre and the wood looks a good deal like that variety, but the Easter Beurre would not be ripe yet, even in your climate, we think. I have several grafts growing on a bearing tree.

Yours truly,

P. BARRY.

Under date of Aug. 7, 1889, Mr. Barry writes: I had five grafts of the Idaho set on a bearing tree; they have made a very strong growth; no fruit yet—expect some next season. The wood and foliage are exactly like Bartlett.

From Parker Earle, Pres't of the American Horticultural Society.

COBDEN, ILL., Sept. 30, 1887.

Dear Sir :—I am to-day in receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., and also of the specimen of the Idaho Pear, which came in perfect condition, being most carefully packed.

I am much pleased with the Idaho. It is evidently a seedling of the old Easter Beurre, and it closely resembles that most excellent of all winter pears in all respects except its season of maturity, which is apparently several weeks or even months earlier. This specimen was in excellent eating condition to-day. It has the sturdy form of the Easter, and the same melting, high flavored, vinous and juicy flesh which the Easter has when at its best. If this pear should succeed over a wide extent of country it would be a great acquisition. I hope it will. Yours truly,

PARKER EARLE.

From P. J. Berkmans, Pres't of the American Pomological Society,

AUGUSTA, GA., Oct. 8, 1887.

Dear Sirs :—I received the specimen of the Idaho Pear in excellent condition, and beg to say that its quality is remarkable for such a large fruit.

Basing my opinion upon the scale of points which govern fruit tests, I would class the pear as very good. There is fine grain, abundant juice, good flavor and especially large size.

Yours respectfully,

P. J. BERKMANS.

NEWPORT, VT., Sept. 29, 1887.

Dear Sir :—Your favor of the 21st, with sample of the Idaho Pear, reached me both by same mail this morning. The fruit was in perfect condition for eating, sound to the core, and in quality the Idaho Pear takes rank with our best varieties. I am extremely pleased with it, and wish I could feel assured that we could grow it here. If the Idaho should turn out to be a real iron clad pear, its value would be incalculable for the cold north.

T. H. HOSKINS.

OXFORD, OHIO, Oct. 18, 1887.

Dear Sirs :—The Idaho Pear came in fine condition. The flavor was very nearly that of the Bartlett, juicy and melting, and its size and flavor will be great recommendations to it, and, if hardy and a good bearer, it is certainly an acquisition in the fruit line that ought to be widely disseminated.

Respectfully,

WALDO F. BROWN.

From the Rural New Yorker, Oct. 29, 1887 :

Prof. J. A. Troop, of LaFayette, Ind., writes us :—On Oct. 4th I received by mail from Lewiston, Idaho, a specimen of the Idaho Pear, a seedling which originated at that place. In shape it resembles a quince more than a pear, but when it comes to the eating qualities I know of no variety of Fall pear that surpasses it. It is rich, sweet and juicy, having that peculiar, melting quality so desirable in a pear. The latitude where it is grown is 46 deg. 28 min. north, which would indicate that the tree is what we would term hardy. Still it may not prove so in our prairie country, where it must withstand both extremes of temperature.

From Samuel Miller, Bluffton, Mo.:

Mr. Miller is known to fruit growers all over the country as a veteran horticulturist and correspondent to many of the leading agricultural papers. Mr. Miller says: The specimen you sent me in 1887 was large and handsome, (weighed 12 oz.) flesh melting and delicious in flavor, no core to speak of and no seeds, a great desideratum in using the fruit. It would be well worth having for the novelty even, if the pear was not all that could be desired.

It is a vigorous grower and I believe will be blight proof, as in my orchard here of 50 trees there is not a tree except the Kieffer that is now entirely free from it, yet two Idaho grafts on one tree are yet sound, notwithstanding the tree upon which they are growing is badly damaged and will probably die, when of course the Idaho will have to yield also.

The specimen you sent last fall (1888) I took to the big show of fruit in St. Louis, at the Exposition building gave it to the committee to test when they came around with the understanding that I was to be called when it was discussed; but they left me out, and their only excuse was that it was so good that they forgot the donor.

Yours truly,

SAMUEL MILLER.

THE IDAHO PEAR.

In October, 1887, we sent to Mr. Geo. S. Eayre, of Vincentown, N. J., for exhibition at the Burlington Co. fair, four specimens of the Idaho Pear that weighed respectively 19, 19½, 21 and 23 oz., and which were awarded the highest prize of the society, a beautiful medal.

VINCENTOWN, N. J., Oct. 6, 1887.

Dear Sirs:—The pears, by express, arrived yesterday; their carrying capacity is truly marvelous. I give you my opinion of the Idaho as follows: Its beautiful and unique appearance and mammoth size would sell it anywhere at once, and its intrinsic merits as a dessert fruit but substantiate the claim which its appearance would indicate, while its shipping qualities will admit of transportation to the most remote markets.

Mr. Eayre is testing the Idaho on both pear and quince stock, and reports that the Idaho is doing splendidly. We quote from his letter of July 15th as follows: One bud of Idaho inserted in a bearing quince last August has grown to date seventeen inches, and this, too, with all the quince branches growing. The union is perfect, presenting an enlarged and protruding shield, indicating the extensive accumulation of sapwood. This is conclusive evidence that the Idaho fraternizes with the quince, and the fact that it makes such enormous wood growth banishes all fear that there will be an excess of fruit spurs, the reason why so many varieties of pear will not succeed on quince. The Idaho maintains its supremacy under all conditions to which I have subjected it.

Mr. W. M. Mitchell, —— Co., Ark., under date of Oct. 27, 1887, in response to a specimen of the Idaho Pear sent to him, after giving a description of the pear says: It was free from hard lumps or grittiness, quality good to best. I regard the Idaho in all respects equal to and in some respects superior to the Bartlett.

Mr. Mitchell is testing the Idaho and under date of Aug. 10, 1889, writes: The Idaho Pear is growing fine. Top grafts made on Le Conte trees last spring at this writing measure 6 to 7 ft. long and are well branched. The Idaho is a stout, strong grower, the wood is short jointed with healthy leaf. I will be much disappointed if it is not a prolific bearer. It grows as readily from cuttings as the Le Conte. The Idaho has behaved well with me. I am much pleased with it.

T. T. Lyon, Prest. of the Michigan State Horticultural Society and long and favorably known as one of the leading Pomologists in the country, states in a recent letter, I will freely say that I esteem the Idaho Pear to be of superior quality, and as very much superior, in this respect, to any other of its season and size with which I am acquainted.

The cions received from you and grafted into a tree of bearing size, show it to be an upright, vigorous grower. They are now developing fruit spurs; and although it is yet too early to determine such to be the fact, there is good prospect of bloom and fruit next year.

T. T. LYON, South Haven, Mich.

When we first sent specimens abroad we hesitated in sending them to California, not knowing how they would be received by the side of the fine California pears. In the fall of 1887 we sent some specimens to D. B. Derby, Esq., of Vacaville, one of the noted fruit regions of California. Mr. Derby writes: I got about a dozen of the most practical fruit growers we have and tested the pears. After they had eaten and thoroughly discussed their merits they all expressed themselves as being surprised, and all of them admitted that they were equally as good as the Bartlett if not finer, and said that they would choose them before they would a Bartlett if they were side by side in the same market. And I must say that I never ate a better pear and I believe they will make a fine pear for California, as they would closely follow the Bartlett in ripening.

Mr. Derby is testing the Idaho and in a recent letter states that it is growing finely, that the grafts blossomed profusely last Spring. (the second year) but that owing to unpropitious weather at the time of blooming, in common with other varieties of pears failed to get fruit.

BLOOMINGTON PHOENIX NURSERY.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL., Oct. 8, '87.

Dear Sir:—In reply to your favor in regard to the Idaho Pear, will say the pear came to hand in good condition. Please accept thanks for your kindness. We are much surprised to see such fruit from the "sage brush barrens" of the North-west. It seems very strange that you can grow such fruit in a region farther north even than St. Paul. We are free to say to that we consider the fruit of the Idaho Pear equal to any Illinois grown Bartlett we have ever eaten, and its immense size puts it one ahead.

Yours truly,

SIDNEY TUTTLE & CO.

G. H. & J. H. HALE, ELM FRUIT FARMS NURSERY.

SOUTH GLASTONBURY, CONN., Oct. 10, 1887.

Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 26th of September with sample Idaho Pear duly at hand. The pear carried in perfect condition but have been waiting for it to ripen perfectly before testing, which we have done to-day, and are greatly pleased with it. The outside appearance is that of a rather coarse quality and texture, but we soon found this to be a mistake; it is as solid and fine in texture as the Lawrence, and *almost* as good in quality, which is saying a great deal, as the Lawrence we consider the best pear grown. The Idaho is really a very valuable acquisition to the *small* list of *really good* pears.

Truly yours,

G. H. & J. H. HALE.

WOODBRIIDGE, CAL., Sept. 26, 1888.

Dear Sirs:—Your favor of the 17th reached me on the 24th inst. accompanied by that most wonderful Idaho Pear. Several have tasted of it and all agree in saying that it is superior to any pear we have here. The grain is very fine, core small. I should feel very proud if I could in some way secure a tree of it.

Yours truly,

S. W. AXTEL.

OFFICE OF W. W. JOHNSON, NURSERYMAN.

SNOWFLAKE, MICH., Oct. 10, 1887.

Idaho Pear Co.:

Dear Sirs:—Received the pear in nice condition and found it very fine indeed. I think the best flavored pear I ever tasted.

W. W. JOHNSON.

THE STORRS AND HARRISON CO., NURSERYMEN, FLORISTS AND SEEDSMEN.

PAINESVILLE, OHIO, Oct. 6, 1887.

The Idaho Pear Co., Lewiston, Idaho,

Gents:—We have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of a sample of Idaho Pear through the kindness of Mr. John H. Evans. It came in good condition and was a very fine specimen, much more shapely than the one pictured in the *Rural New Yorker* about a year ago; in fact it resembled a well grown Duchess and could have been easily taken for that variety. On cutting it we found it to be entirely seedless and with a very small core, cutting almost as smooth as butter. Rich and melting in the mouth and of excellent flavor, all that tasted of it pronouncing it above average in quality.

Yours truly,

STORRS & HARRISON CO.

OFFICE OF W. & T. SMITH, GENEVA NURSERY.

GENEVA, N. Y., Nov. 11th, 1887.

To the Idaho Pear Co.:

Your letter of the 29th received, also a specimen of the Idaho Pear, October 9th, which reached us in good condition. It is very distinct in shape, more like an apple than a pear, quality good, somewhat like a Bartlett in flavor, flesh white and fine grained, core small, we might say almost coreless and seedless. Ripening a month later than the Bartlett together with its good quality should it prove to do well in the East, must be a great acquisition to our list of pears.

Yours truly,

W. & T. SMITH.

GLEN COVE, N. Y., Oct. 2, 1887.

Dear Sir:—The Idaho Pear you sent me is received. It has come in excellent condition. It is a handsome and distinct appearing fruit of fine quality. So good a pear must be a great desideratum to you, in fact if it prove equally good throughout the country, it shall be a welcome addition to our autumn fruits.

Yours truly,

WM. FALCONER.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—DIVISION OF POMOLOGY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 4th, 1888.

Dear Sir:—In the absence of Prof. Van Deman, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of Sept. 10th, together with the specimens of Idaho Pear. This fruit was tested by a number of gentlemen here and pronounced excellent. It is certainly a very good pear, and a great acquisition to the list of pears adapted to the North and North-west. I was much surprised to find such exceeding good quality, fine grain and smoothness of texture in so large and coarse appearing a pear. Of course the quality was injured some by the presence of the codling moth larva.

Very truly yours,

C. L. HOPKINS, Assistant Pomologist.

S. H. & E. H. FROST, FRUIT AND PRODUCE COMMISSION MERCHANTS, 100 PARK PLACE,
NEW YORK, Oct. 7, 1887.

Dear Sir:—Your sample of fruit was received on time and in good order. The expression generally from those we showed it to was that it was a coarse variety, something like a Duchess. We finally entertained one of our best buyers and fruit experts with the quality, and he pronounces it first class.

Yours, S. H. & E. H. FROST.

FAULKNER, Jeff. Co., Ind., October 20, 1887.

To Idaho Pear Co., Lewiston, Idaho:

Having received one Idaho Pear for my inspection, I must say it was very fine in every respect, large size, juicy and sweet, the smallest core I ever saw, which contained but one seed. It is one of the finest pears I ever tasted, and certainly has a bright future if it does in other climates besides Idaho.

W. L. BURDETT.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Oct. 20, 1888.

Idaho Pear Co.:

Dear Sirs:—The Idaho Pear mailed to me at Macon, Ill., reached me here in fair condition, after being remailed across a continent, and it a wormy pear at that. * * * * I can agree with every word the *Pacific Rural Press* and Professor Budd say of the pear. Here we only have three varieties of pears, to wit: Bartlett, Winter Nellis and —; the Idaho might give us one more favorite.

Yours truly,

D. B WIER,
Formerly Macon, Ill.

OFFICE OF FRED'K JAEKEL.

HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA., October 3, 1887.

The Idaho Pear Co., Lewiston, Idaho.

Gentlemen:—The pear you shipped to me by mail arrived here in prime condition on the 28th last. It was of a quince-like shape, yellow, tender skin, weighed $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz., a short and thin stem. Melting, buttery, little acid, tender and juicy to the core, with few seed shells and seeds, and well and equally ripened throughout. Our county fair had been opened, I sent it on the fair grounds and by the enclosed slip you will see it received the first premium. I also enclose a newspaper cutting from one of our daily papers.

The pear is surely an acquisition to our already large list of fruit, but of good fruit we can never have too much.

Yours truly,

FREDERICK JAEKEL.

FROM GERMANY.

METZ, LORRAINE, Dec. 13, 1888.

Dear Sir:—We received your hon. letter of Sept. 18, as also the sample of Idaho Pear which reached us on Oct. 12. Tasted on the 16th this pear has been found of 1st quality in *fineness*, juiciness and flavor, and it rivals our very best fruits; its size also is of the most remarkable. You would greatly oblige us by sending us a few grafts packed in moss and telling us whether *Idaho* is its true name, and if possibly it has been propagated in America under another name by other horticulturists. Thanking you sincerely we remain truly yours,

(Translated.)

SIMON LOUIS BROS.,
Plantières près Metz.

FROM FRANCE.

ROUEN, Nov. 27, 1888.

Dear Sir:—On the 14th of October last the members of the Central Horticultural Society of the Seine Inferieure tasted the Idaho Pear which you kindly sent me. This fruit was pronounced exquisite, of first quality, and much to be recommended.

I communicated to my colleagues the offer you made me to present us with a few grafts of this excellent variety. They accept this offer and join themselves to me to thank you in advance for this mark of generosity.

E. VARENNE,
Director of Public Gardens of City of Rouen.

ROUEN, March 31, 1889.

You are at liberty to publish the letter I addressed to you on the 27th of November last, on the subject of the handsome and excellent pear, the Idaho, which variety we will be happy to possess here.

Yours truly,

(Translated.)

E. VARENNE.

In the Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1888, just from the Government Printing Office, we find the following report of the Pomologist of the department, which we copy in full :

IDAHO.

This pear has been attracting so much attention and is of such real value that I take pleasure in giving it a place in this report. It is a variety raised from seed saved from an unknown variety and planted about the year 1867, by Mrs. Mullkey, of Lewiston, Idaho, and first brought to public notice in the fall of 1886, by Mr. John H. Evans, of that place. It has been stated by some of the papers that it is of Chinese parentage, "similar to Kieffer," but my opinion is that this is a mistake, for the fruit bears no resemblance to that class, either in flavor or texture. It is much like Angouleme in both these characters.

Specimens received at this office, October 4th, 1888, from Mr. Evans, were in fine condition, and the illustration on plate No. 2 of this report is as near exact in color, size and shape, as could be made, and is not exaggerated in any respect. The original tree commenced to bear fruit at 4 years from seed. I would recommend it for extensive trial, as the tree has already proven itself to be hardy in several northern states.

Size of fruit from 4 to 4½ inches diameter; shape a little flattened, tapering slightly both ways from the centre, quite irregular, depressed at the stem; surface rough and uneven, yellow or straw color, with a faint blush or brownish-red on the sunny-side, and a few bronzed blotches; dots minute, dark and very numerous; basin deep, flaring; very irregular or ribbed, and thickly covered with fine, brown dots; cavity medium, abrupt, irregular; stem stout and rather long; core very small; seeds few; flesh almost white, fine grained, buttery, melting, lacks the grit so often found in pears; flavor sweet to mild sub-acid, rich and aromatic, juicy; quality, very good; season, September in Idaho.

CALIFORNIA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Oct. 26, '87.

Mr. J. H. Evans, Esq.:

I had the pleasure of examining the sample which was sent to Professor Hilgard about October 1st. Even that was too far ripened on its arrival here to do itself justice in the matter of flavor, but it could be seen that it must have a very rich, sprightly and delicious flavor when in the best condition. The fineness of grain, almost total freedom from fibrous matter, grand size, accompanied by such richness and delicacy of flavor, must, I think, make this a notable fruit.

The hardiness of the tree and its ability to withstand a low temperature are not of great importance in the greater part of California, but we have mountain districts in which this iron-clad character will be valuable.

Very respectfully,

E. J. WICKSON, Secretary.

JANESVILLE, WIS., Sept. 30, 1887.

Dear Sir:— Your favor of the 23d and the pear received yesterday. Thanks. The pear weighing 9 oz., was in splendid condition and of first class quality, some would pronounce it superior to Bartlett, others might not. The best seedling I have ever tasted.

Truly, etc.,

GEO. J. KELLOGG.

LOCKPORT, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1888.

Idaho Pear Co., Lewiston, Idaho:

Dear Sirs.— Yours of the 1st inst., giving an account of the Idaho Pear, history and testimonials, and also the pear itself, came duly to hand. We gave the same a thorough test and we pronounce it excellent; one of the best. It was received in fine condition and well ripened, fine in appearance, and its quality is certainly very fine.

Very truly yours, NIAGARA WHITE GRAPE CO.

HITCHCOCK, TEXAS, Sept. 26, 1888.

Dear Sir:— The Idaho Pear came this morning and certainly was one of the finest looking and the best eating pear I ever saw. It certainly will create a sensation when better known, and if the rest of the country can grow them as Idaho does there is little danger of overdoing the business. The buds you kindly sent me last spring all took and many shoots are 6 feet long. I budded some on Le Comte, some on Kieffer and some on common pear trees, and all have done equally well. Some of the shoots look as though they had some fruit buds, though I fear they grew so strong that they will not bear until the following season. I will let you know in the spring. Accept my best thanks and my best wishes for your success in disseminating this great acquisition when you get ready to put it on the market.

Yours truly,

H. M. STRINGFELLOW.

THE IDAHO PEAR.

Mr. J. Jenkins, the well known nurseryman from Winona, Ohio, writes the following :

WINONA, OHIO, Sept. 27, 1887.

My Dear Sir.—I received your letter promptly, but the pears did not get along until three days after. They came in excellent condition and were the finest pears in appearance that I ever saw. They are still rather green to test as to their quality, though from them when cut somewhat green I would pronounce it very good. Am preserving one specimen for a further test when more nearly ripened.

Truly yours,

J. JENKINS.

WINONA, October 10, '87.

The Idaho Pear, when I came to taste it, was quite a surprise. I supposed, from its immense size, that it would be rather coarse in grain and texture. I find it just the contrary. It is fine grained, buttery and rich in flavor. If a good bearer it is certainly an acquisition.

Respectfully,

J. JENKINS.

OFFICE OF T. V. MUNSON'S DENISON NURSERIES.

DENISON, TEXAS, Sept. 25, '89.

Dear Sir:—I have received the Idaho Pear in fair condition, and find it a large, round, yellow pear of good quality, rather better than the Duchess but not so good as Bartlett. It shows valuable properties, and if the tree is vigorous and productive it will rank among our leading kinds. The specimen was just 12 days en route. It certainly will carry well. Thanks for specimen.

Respectfully,

T. V. MUNSON.

E. & O. WARD, PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

NEW YORK, Oct. 20, 1887.

The Idaho Pear Co.,

Gents:—Your pear by mail was duly received and we have held it to ripen and test the quality. We beg to report the quality very fine indeed. Should think they would sell at good prices when the quality was known and tested with other good standard varieties. Yours, etc.,

E. & O. WARD.

FRANKTOWN, NEVADA, Oct. 30, 1888.

Idaho Pear Co.,

Gentlemen:—I owe you an apology for not sooner acknowledging your kind attention in sending me a specimen of your celebrated pear. When received it unfortunately was nearly spoilt, and I could not judge fairly as to its quality; but I believe it is very superior, for even in its decomposed state it gave evidence of its having been fine. I noticed that it was more decayed at the outside than at the heart, which is very unusual with pears. It resembles the Duchess very much, but perhaps more hardy and certainly more highly colored.

Very respectfully yours,

ROSS LEWERS.

H. M. ENGLE & SON, NURSERYMEN AND FRUIT GROWERS.

MARIETTA, PA., Nov. 10, 1887.

Idaho Pear Co.,

Gentlemen:—The sample of the Idaho Pear sent was received by us quite a while ago. We tested it and give you our verdict. The quality is very good, and it is fine grained and juicy. These qualities, with its large size and late season, must make it a valuable variety. How it will succeed in the East remains to be seen. Should it prove adapted to our section it must prove a valuable acquisition to our list of pears.

Respectfully yours,

H. M. ENGLE & SON.

From M. B. Prince, correspondent of the Rural New Yorker, Henderson, N. C.

Under date of Oct. 3, '87, Mr. Prince writes: "The Idaho Pear was received in fair condition, being somewhat over-ripe, one small spot of decay on the surface. Its form is quite singular, more like an apple than pear. So far as I can judge from this one specimen its quality is *first rate*; not sugary but delicious. The cions you sent me last spring were shriveled and apparently dead, yet I succeeded in making one of the four grow. It has made a growth of 18 inches." Again under date of July 26 of the present season Mr. Prince writes, "The Idaho graft is growing finely."

We regret being unable to give the report made on the Idaho Pear by Henry Stewart, Esq., of Highlands, N. C., Agr. editor of the *N.Y. Times*. Mr. Stewart in acknowledging receipt of the pear says, "It was very fine and so reported."

VANCOUVER NURSERY, WASHINGTON T'Y.

Sept. 30, 1887.

Gentlemen.—Your Idaho Pear received. In reply would say that we consider it a very fine pear, resembling the Bartlett somewhat in flavor. We think the specimen you sent us was a little too ripe to be at its best. We also showed the pear to Hon. S. W. Brown, one of the leading fruit men in this T'y, and he thinks it is very fine. We think it will be a valuable addition to the pear family.

Yours truly,

A. COOK & SON.

SALEM, OREGON, Sept. 30, 1887.

Dear Sirs:—The pear you sent came to hand in good condition. I put it away in the dark till mellow and yesterday tasted its quality. I judge the tree to be a seedling of the Fall Butter or (White Doyenne) and yet it is more buttery and of better quality. We down here call it *very good*; almost "Best." I think it worthy of propagation.

Respectfully,

O. DICKINSON.

From Col. Geo. L. Shoup, one of Idaho's pioneers, a practical fruit grower, Idaho's Commissioner to the Centennial Exposition at New Orleans and now our honored Governor:

SALMON CITY, IDAHO, Dec. 4, 1887.

Dear Sirs:—Some time since I received by mail from you a very fine pear. I congratulate you if you have many such, for I found the Idaho Pear to be most excellent, rich and juicy, and of the finest flavor. The pear sent me would make a creditable exhibit at any fair or exposition on the globe. The variety should be extensively cultivated.

GEO. L. SHOUP.

PALMYRA, N. Y., Sept. 22, '86.

Specimen of pear received. If that is average size it's the largest first class pear I have ever eaten. Similar in flavor to Sheldon, but more juicy and richer with a delightful aromatic flavor.

October 17, '87.

The specimen of Idaho Pear was duly received and proves to be a first class sort. It keeps well, which must make it a valuable market sort.

A. M. PURDY.

FROM THE REPORT OF AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR 1889.

At the meeting of the American Pomological Society in 1889, at Ocala, Florida, the committee upon native fruits, Dr. F. M. Hexamer of New York, chairman, reported upon this pear as follows:

The most noteworthy new fruit which has come to the notice of your committee is the Idaho Pear. It is a chance seedling, originating near Lewiston, Idaho. In size, general appearance and aroma, it resembles the crosses of the Chinese Sand Pear, but its eating quality is far superior to that of any of this class known in cultivation. It is very large and handsome; irregular globular, somewhat depressed. The cavity of the fruit is very irregular, basin shallow and pointed; calyx very small and closed; core very small; skin golden yellow with many russety spots; flesh melting, juicy, with a sprightly, vinous, delicious flavor; season September and October. So far it has not fruited outside of its native locality, where the tree has withstood a temperature of thirty degrees below zero.

**FROM THE HORTICULTURAL ART JOURNAL,
ROCHESTER, N. Y.**

The specimens were received by mail, in good order ; the description we make is as follows : Size large, fifteen ounces, form of Easter Beurre, or Duchess, lemon yellow, flesh melting, juicy, excellent quality ; no cavity where core is usually found, and without sign of seed. Quoting from the letter accompanying the fruit : " There is hardly rain enough, at any one time, from March to October, to lay the dust, the mercury ranging from 105 to 110 degrees, day after day. Through this extreme of heat and drouth, newly planted trees of the Idaho survived and this season made a fine growth. The Idaho seems to possess remarkable shipping qualities : has been sent through the mails all over the country ; one specimen was returned in good condition from New York City to Lewiston, having traveled over 5,000 miles through the mails, and a part of the way by the old-fashioned mail wagon."

Considering the place where grown, we think it (The Idaho) a wonder.

TO INTENDING PURCHASERS.

We have many more testimonials of the same high authority as those already quoted, but we think we have given sufficient, from all the various sections of the United States, to satisfy anyone who will be convinced, that the Idaho Pear is deserving of the unprecedented popularity it has received in so short a time.

Our own interests would have best been subserved by withholding the Idaho Pear stock for another season, but the demand for trees has been so pressing that we have concluded to offer our very limited stock of trees for sale the present fall, confident that wherever they are tried they will induce larger orders the following seasons.

For the protection of our own interests and to guarantee the genuineness of the Idaho Pear stock to the public, we have registered our trade mark, "the Idaho Pear," in the U. S. Patent Office, and each tree sold by us will be sent out under seal of our trade mark. As we have sole control of the stock, we would warn the public against purchasing any tree without our seal, as they would not be genuine.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Our trees are grown on imported French stock and are all one year old. We shall send out none but first class trees.

TERMS.

Single tree, by mail, post paid,	\$2.50
Three trees, " " " "	6.00

We have a limited number of trees too large for mail orders which will be sold at same prices as above, and shipped by express or freight at the purchaser's expense.

Address all orders to

IDAHO PEAR CO.,

Lewiston, Idaho.



RESIDENCE OF J. N. LINDSAY ESQ. HOME OF THE IDAHO PEAR.

